Numb. 26.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

Connubio jungam Stabili.——VIR.

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

FRIDAY, *January* 12. 172⅞.

I Designed long before this (according to my Promise) to have taken in hand the unmarried Part of my own Sex, who have more Money than ought to come to their ure, except they will get a Wife and Chilm to partake of it; but have been hind by several Matters, which have been l before me, that have cost me a good l of pains in the Examination: Amongst e, was an Overture which was made me y certain Set of Ladies of great Manageent, some of whose Proceedings I find e been recorded by a Brother Writer, der the Title of the *Female Inquisi*n. They expres'd a very becoming Zeal r the State of Matrimony; and assured , that they had been indefatigable in their deavour for the Propagation of it; as uld appear from their Journals, and the inutes of their Proceedings on all their ourt-Days, which, together with their geral Book of Accounts, they submitted to y Inspection. In their main Register hich was the largest Folio I ever beheld) e Names of the respective Batchelors ere entred on one Side, by way of Debtor th the Day and Year they had their Inrmation of them. On the other, they ade themselves Creditor for all whom they scharged by Marriage, and minuted down e Time of their Espousals, with the ames of the Ladies they married. Under ery Name on the Debtor Side, was set own a concise, but exact Account of the erson, Age, Fortune, Humour, *&c.* of e Gentleman, together with the Names of e several Ladies, out of which he should e allowed to make his Choice: And on the pposite Leaf were left equal Spaces for maing short Memorandums of any thing maerial that happen'd in their Transactions with them, which referred by Figures to their Books, in which they kept the Journals of all their Proceedings, where they could find the whole Affair recorded at large.

I was extremely pleased with the Method and Exactness of their Proceedings; as well as with their Secretary's informing me, that I might see by the Book of their Registers (the Truth of which would be proved on Oath) that they did not carry Matters with so high a hand as was represented; since it plainly appeared, that there was no one Gentleman who had not three Ladies at least allowed him, out of which he might make his Choice, which certainly is latitude enough in all conscience for any Man who is not very Humoursome and Fantastical. This made me very inclinable to come into the Measures they proposed to me, till I very unluckily observed, that the Accounts on the Side of the Debtor had been gradually increasing; and the Discharges on the part of the Creditor had still as regularly diminished for the full Space of these twelve Years last past. I acquainted the Board with my Remark, which they could not but confess was true; and therefore I found it necessary to look out for a further Remedy, which might put a more effectual Stop to the growing Evil; tho' I shall be very willing to carry on a fair Correspondence with these enterprizing Ladies, and give them any reasonable Assistance that lies in my power. Before I take my leave of this Court of Females, I cannot but insert an Observation on the State of Matrimony, which I made by the help of their Register, that I think tends not a little to the Credit of the Marriage-Life, as well as to the Commendation of myself and my Fellow-Labourers for the publick Good: *viz.* That tho' in 1708, and several preceding Years, the Debtor-side had

had greatly the Advantage, yet in 1709, and 10, during the Time of my former Lucubrations, their Diſcharges got up ſo high, as to be to their Entries as 97 to 64. In 1711, 12, 13, and 1714. (when the Town received the polite and improving Diſcourſes of the Gentleman with the ſhort Face and *Neſtor Ironſide*) the Run was ſtill ſtronger on the ſide of Matrimony, and the Diſcharges very near doubled their Entries; ſo that if there had been a Succeſſion of ſound and wholeſome Inſtructions continued to the Publick, I do not queſtion but that long before this a Batchelor would have been as much aſhamed to have ſhown his face in any faſhionable Company, as a married Man may now and then have been at other Times, when the Town has been wholly left to themſelves, to follow their own idle Imaginations.

Tho' my Paper is pretty far gone, I cannot wholly overlook a Scheme, which has been brought me by a very zealous Patriot, whoſe Dreſs, and way of talking, declare him to be a Projector of no ſmall ſtanding. I muſt alſo acquaint the Ladies, that my own Head has not been idle, and that I have a Project for their Service upon the Anvil, which at preſent I am not a little fond of. It is as yet only in Embryo, but they may gueſs at the nature of it, when I inform them, that I took the Hint from the following Story, which I am aſſured is authentick, tho' the thing happen'd during my Abſence.

There was ſome Years ago an Officer about Town of a good Family, but ſmall Fortune, who by his Merit and Addreſs had raiſed himſelf very early to a conſiderable Poſt in the Army. By the help of this, and an uncommon Dexterity in all his Oeconomy, he got to be worth thirty thouſand Pounds, by that time he was Nine and Thirty. As he was beloved by all his Acquaintance, they were often adviſing him to marry; and hardly a Day paſt, but that one or other of them was cavilling at the oddneſs of the way he lived in, which was ſo much below a Perſon of his Fortune and Figure. By being ſo perpetually teazed upon the ſame Subject, he grew tired of arguing the Matter ſo often by word of mouth: and to put an end to the Diſpute, reſolved to reduce his Arguments againſt Matrimony into Writing: He did ſo, and pretended to demonſtrate in Black and White, that he ſhould be a conſiderable Loſer by marrying, even tho' he got a Lady of 10,000 *l.* Fortune. A certain Nobleman, as remarkable for his Wit as his Valour, happen'd to be in company when he produced this whimſical Calculation; and after it had afforded them no little Diverſion, in running over the ſeveral Articles of it, he deſired him to draw it up in a more regular Form, and put a proper Title to it; and told him, that if he would meet him with it at Court the next Evening, he would make one of the Party again at the ſame Tavern, and ſit as Preſident to their merry Debate. My Officer very innocently complied, and when he had joined his Grace in the Drawing-Room, he carried him up towards the Circle, and at laſt very artfully edged him into the middle of the Maids of Honour. He had no ſooner got him there, but he clapt his Hand into his Pocket, took the Paper out, and laying hold of the Colonel's Shoulder, told the Ladies that they had got a very odd ſort of Gentleman amongſt them, who advanced ſeveral ſtrange heterodox Opinions, as they ſhould hear preſently. The Colonel begg'd, pray'd, and ſwore, but all to no purpoſe. The Paper was opened before them all, and his Lordſhip with a very audible Voice began with——"Reaſons to prove that a Gentleman of 1500 *l. per Annum*; will be a Sufferer, not only in his Quiet, but his Fortune, by marrying a Lady with 10,000 *l.* Fortune"—The Preamble one may imagine put the Ladies into no ſmall Fit of Laughter, and my Gentleman into as much Confuſion: But to cut my Story ſhort, every particular *Item* in the Account was at laſt fairly debated over *pro* and *con*, before a much larger, as well as fairer Audience, than he deſigned. I muſt beg to be excuſed from giving any Account of the Arguments that were made uſe of, as I would not willingly inſtruct our modern Marriage-Haters what to ſay for themſelves, for I will engage that their whole Body put together would not be able to make half ſuch an artful and plauſible Defence for a bad Cauſe as my calculating Colonel.

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